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Patricia Hearst's lawyer to do Smart appeal

By Linda Bean
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CONCORD, N.H. — J. Albert Johnson, the lawyer who defended Patricia Hearst, will appeal Pamela Smart's conviction.

"We are sure he will serve Pamela's interests admirably well," said Paul Twomey, one of Mrs. Smart's two defense lawyers.

Mr. Johnson's acceptance of the sensational case ends speculation that Alan Dershowitz - Harvard Law School professor, syndicated columnist and well-known defense attorney - would handle Mrs. Smart's appeal.

Rumors that Mr. Dershowitz - who defended Claus von Bulow and Leona Helmsley - would represent Mrs. Smart

made it as far as the most recent edition of Newsweek.

Mr. Johnson, F. Lee Bailey's longtime partner and founder of the Boston law firm Johnson, Mee and May "will do an excellent job," said Mr. Twomey.

Mr. Johnson's list of clients include:

MAI LAI MASSACRE defendant Capt. Ernest Medina.

WATERGATE defendant James McCord.

ACCUSED HILLSIDE STRANGLER James Mark Jones. Mr. Jones was acquitted in the California case and another man was later convicted of the serial murders.

Mrs. Smart, 23, former media director for Winnacunnet School District, was convicted March 22 of conspiring with a teen-age lover to murder her husband, Gregory. Her televised, six-week trial ended with her conviction

for being an accomplice to murder, conspiring to murder and witness tampering.

She was sentenced to life in prison without parole while an estimated 120 reporters, newscasters and cameramen looked on.

Mr. Johnson did not return telephone calls.

Mr. Twomey refused to comment on the possible cost of an appeal or the possibility that Mr. Johnson will represent Mrs. Smart free of charge.

Mrs. Smart is scheduled to be in court July 30 for a hearing that will focus on alleged improprieties among the jurors who heard evidence in her case.

Mr. Twomey said it is not yet certain which lawyer will represent her at that hearing.